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NORTHALLERTON

Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1937

HUGH G. HANAN, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.)

Medical Officer of Health.

NORTHALLERTON:

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207 MARKET PLACE.

Northallerton Urban District Council.

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Medical Officer of Health : H. G. HANAN, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1937.

May, 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The following report is arranged under the same headings as previously and contains the usual extracts from statistics.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District (in acres)	3653
Population (1921 census)	4791
Population (1931 census)	4787
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937	4941
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	1101
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	1215
Number of inhabited houses, 1937	1517
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	1101
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	1217
Rateable value of district	£27315
Sum represented by a penny rate	£104 19s. 0d.

Physical Features.

The following abbreviated description of the physical features of the district was included in previous annual reports.

"Northallerton, the County Town of the North Riding, is a market town situated in the Vale of York. The old portion consisting mainly of one long wide street, with narrow side streets and yards.

The Market Place, or main street, which has ample space along its entire length between the roadway and footpaths, makes the town an ideal place for parking cars when attending market, or doing shopping generally, and is largely patronised on this account. The houses are mostly built of old red brick. The area immediately surrounding the town is open agricultural land of good quality, for the most part flat or gently undulating; it is intersected with well-made roads stretching and branching in every direction

"During recent years many new houses have been built or are in process of erection in East Road, Romanby Road, Brompton Road, The Vicars Croft and Crosby Road in the Urban area, and in many directions adjoining in the Rural area. Level railway crossings on three roads entering the town still continue, the worst is on the North Road where shunting takes place over the main northern highway.

The soil is mainly alluvial with patches of sand, gravel and clay. The permanent pasture land is of good quality and the grazing excellent.

"The occupations of the inhabitants are the usual businesses found in similar county towns. The L. & N.E. Railway, Linoleum Factory, Dried Milk Factory and Saw Mill give employment. Many residents are Local Government officers in the County Council employ. There is no industry having a bad effect upon the health of the community in the town itself."

Unemployment is about stationary and is now at the rate of 200 per 10,000 of the population.

2. EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

		Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate.
1925	Legitimate	72	29	43	15.72
	Illegitimate	4	1	3	
1930	Legitimate	50	28	22	10.82
	Illegitimate	4	2	2	
1935	Legitimate	93	44	49	19.31
	Illegitimate	3	1	2	
1937	Legitimate	77	37	40	16.97
	Illegitimate	7	5	2	

The rate for the country as a whole for 1937 is 14.9 per 1,000 population.

		Total.	M.	F.
1937	Still Births	2	1	1

Equivalent to rate of 0.4 per 1,000. General rate over the whole country 0.6 per 1,000 population.

Deaths.

Year.	Total.	M.	F.	Death Rate.
1925 ...	53	24	29	10.96
1930 ...	36	17	19	7.21
1935 ...	66	34	32	13.27
1937 ...	54	28	26	10.93

1937 the rate for England and Wales is 12.4 per 1,000 of population.

Excluding the deaths of infants under one year of age the average age at death is 61.5 years. 24 individuals attained the age of 70 years, and of these 6 were between 80 and 90 and 3 over 90.

Causes of Death, 1937.

Heart and Circulatory Diseases ...	17
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc.	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2
Cancer	8
Senility	2
Digestive Diseases	4
Tuberculosis	1
Congenital Causes	2
Violence	3
Nephritis	2
Scarlet Fever	—
Influenza	1
Whooping Cough	—
Diabetes	1
Other defined causes	6

Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth or Pregnancy.

	From Sepsis.	From other accidents or diseases of pregnancy and parturition.
1937 ...	Nil	Nil

During the last 16 years, in which time over 1,000 Confinements have been attended, there have been 2 Maternal deaths, neither of which was due to sepsis. This is very creditable. Practically all these cases were attended in their own homes.

Deaths of Infants.

under one year of age.

	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	0
Illegitimate	0	0
Total	4	0

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births Registered is 47.6.
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1937 is 58.

The Deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough (all ages and Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age).

Nil

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	4	4	0
Scarlet Fever	11	10	1
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia and Broncho Pneumonia ...	10	4	4
Other diseases generally notifiable ...	1	1	0
Other diseases notifiable locally ...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Totals	26	19	5

The infectious cases (not including tuberculosis) notified during the past 9 years number :—1929—21, 1930—15, 1931—16, 1932—24, 1933—22, 1934—96, 1935—34, 1936—26, 1937—26.

Tuberculosis.

The following are the particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from this disease during 1937 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	1	2	2	—	1	—	—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—One mild case notified during 1932 ; none since.

The following is the analysis under age groups of Scarlet Fever cases for the year under review :—

Age.		Age.	
Under 1 year ...	0	10—15 years ...	2
1—2 years ...	0	15—20 ,, ...	3
2—3 ,, ...	1	20—35 ,, ...	1
3—4 ,, ...	3	35—40 ,, ...	0
4—5 ,, ...	0	40 and over ...	0
5—6 ,, ...	0		
6—7 ,, ...	0		—
7—8 ,, ...	1	Total ...	11
8—9 ,, ...	0		—

4. NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, Etc., AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

Considering the population, Northallerton Urban District is well provided with hospitals and motor ambulance for the transport of the sick and injured. In this respect it caters not only for Northallerton but for the surrounding districts.

The accommodation and arrangements are practically the same as stated in previous annual reports.

Nursing in the home. (a) For general home nursing there is a visiting district nurse, under the management of a voluntary committee of ladies associated with the Queen's Nurses. This has been in existence for 37 years. The funds are derived from voluntary contributors; supplemented by small annual subscriptions and fees from the patients. The Red Cross Society during 1921 gave a donation of £50 towards the expenses and grants are received annually from the County Council. This provides for the services of the district nurses in the Urban and Rural districts for School nursing and Health Visiting work.

The District Nurses are supervised by the North Riding County Nursing Association.

(b) No provision is made for nursing infectious cases in the patients own home free of charge, and no such provision is necessary here.

Midwives. The District Nurse acts as midwife for the town, and certified midwives practising in the district also attend to such cases by arrangement when required. The Local Authority gives an annual subscription of one guinea towards the expenses of the district nurse.

Treatment Centres. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is provided by the County Council under the supervision of Dr. J. J. Thomson, the Tuberculosis Officer, and is held at the Rutson Hospital each Wednesday at 2 p.m. A school Eye Clinic also provided by the County Council is held at the Rutson Hospital under the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr. J. Higham. An Orthopædic Clinic is held in the Zion Schoolroom at stated intervals, due notice being given.

School children requiring surgical treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids are admitted to the Rutson Hospital by arrangement with the County Council, under the care of the Nose and Throat Surgeon, Mr. W. O. Lodge, F.R.C.S.

There is no provision in this area for the public treatment of Venereal disease. A dispensary for this purpose is not necessary here, as the amount of such disease is so small as not to warrant the establishment of such a centre. Cases from the area attend the dispensaries at Stockton, Darlington or York.

Hospital and Ambulance Facilities.

The Rutson Hospital. A Cottage Hospital situated in the town was modernised in 1932 by the addition of two new wards, each of ten beds, two open sun wards, each of three beds, and two private wards, a total of twenty-eight beds.

A modern operating theatre and ante-room was provided, and a generous donor has presented an efficient X-ray apparatus.

Children are received into the general wards of the Rutson Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities. (a) For infectious cases requiring removal a special car is reserved for this purpose and provided at the expense of the Urban District Council. The fever hospital nurse generally accompanies the patients.

(b) For non-infectious diseases and accidents, a modern motor ambulance is provided, and attended by Red Cross workers.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS. Adult cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis requiring sanatorium treatment are admitted to the Wensleydale Sanatorium, Aysgarth, Mowbray Grange Sanatorium, Bedale, and other Sanatoria. Children suffering from chest tuberculosis are treated at the County Council's Sanatorium for Children at Morris Grange. Children with surgical tuberculosis are admitted to the Yorkshire Cripples Hospital, Kirbymoorside.

A limited number of beds in open sun wards in the Rutson Hospital are available for patients from the North Riding suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, admission being by arrangement between the Rutson Hospital Committee and those who control the Tuberculosis scheme of the County Council.

(2) MATERNITY. Prospective mothers, married or unmarried, requiring hospital accommodation, when chargeable to the Public Assistance Committee, were formerly received into the maternity ward at the Union Infirmary, Northallerton, but arrangements were completed during 1932 for all such cases to be sent to the Richmond Union Infirmary. Cases of difficult or dangerous confinement and Puerperal septic cases, should one arise, are admitted to Hospital by arrangement of the County Council.

(3) UNION INFIRMARY. The Union Infirmary receives ordinary patients chargeable to the Public Assistance Committee from the Northallerton, Thirsk and Bedale areas.

(4) FEVER HOSPITALS. Two isolation hospitals for infectious diseases are provided. They are erected side by side in an enclosed field in the Urban area about a mile from the town. One is provided by the Urban District, and the other by the Rural District Council, and they receive patients from either or both areas. By this arrangement it is possible to isolate two classes of Infectious diseases, in two sexes, at the same time. This method is economical, convenient, and has worked to the advantage of both Councils for many years. During the year 1927 the Rural District Council decided to build a matron's cottage adjoining the hospitals. The Urban District Council joined in the expense of working this cottage scheme, so that the services of the matron may be of benefit to patients from both areas.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases isolated in the joint hospital during the year:—

		Urban Cases		Rural and other Cases	
In Hospital, 1st Jan., 1937.	Scarlet Fever	1	Scarlet Fever	5	
	Diphtheria	0	Diphtheria	0	
New cases admitted 1937.	Scarlet Fever	10	Scarlet Fever	63	
	Diphtheria	4	Diphtheria	16	
	Other cases	1	Other cases	3	
	Total Cases ...	16		87	

Towards the close of 1931 the County Council through their Medical Officer of Health submitted a scheme for re-grouping fever hospitals in the Riding. Certain surrounding areas were recommended to send their infectious cases into the Northallerton Urban and Rural Hospitals, the same to be enlarged if necessary, and worked under a joint committee of the providing authorities. At a Conference held in the County Hall, the full scheme was considerd by representatives from all the Areas in the North Riding, but the Conference was postponed until a future date, for the various areas interested to meet and try to come to an understanding upon the suggested scheme, so far as it affected the areas they represented. At the second conference held early in 1932 no constructive proposals were submitted by the various Authorities interested in the County Council's Scheme. It is understood that the County Council at their meeting held later decided to defer the consideration of the matter.

The County Council on June 7th, 1933, submitted a scheme to the Minister of Health for his approval, and the same was approved on November 18th, 1933. The scheme is in three parts :—

Part 1. Deals with the isolation of infectious diseases other than smallpox for the North Riding and comes into operation on 1st April, 1938.

Part 2. Is a temporary scheme designed to make the best use of the existing accommodation and became operative on the approval of the Minister. The Northallerton Urban and Rural Councils are providing authorities under the scheme for the districts of Kirklington, Masham, Helmsley and Thirsk. When Part 1 comes into operation the further district of Bedale will also be included.

Part 3. Deals with Smallpox. The present arrangements with the County Borough of Middlesbrough continuing.

(5) SMALLPOX. The Urban District Council has made arrangements with the Middlesbrough Sanitary Authority for all smallpox cases from this area to be admitted into the Middlesbrough Smallpox Hospital at a uniform fixed charge, to be taken there in the Middlesbrough Ambulance used for removal of Smallpox cases.

(6) ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION. No apparatus by superheated steam or other means for disinfecting unwashable goods is provided. The sanitary inspector visits premises requiring disinfection and uses a formalin spray. Formalin lamps, sulphur candles and disinfectants are supplied free of charge.

5. LABORATORY WORK.

Where pathological or bacteriological examinations are required, the Council have given sanction for these to be carried out by institutions making a speciality of this work. Diphtheria swabs, antitoxin and other sera are provided free of charge.

6. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

House Scavenging.

As indicated in earlier reports the number of privy ashpits and dry ashpits is now almost negligible, and a number (approx. 90) old properties are still served by pail closets—emptied weekly.

The scavenging services are efficiently carried out by the Council's own employees and weekly collections of ashbins are made throughout the district. All refuse is disposed of at the Yafforth Road dump (formerly a clay pit) some distance to the North-west of the town.

Nuisances.

The necessity for legal procedure for the abatement of nuisances has not arisen during the year and informal action has secured the remedy of a number of nuisances, the chief of which relate to:— accumulation of manure, defective drainage, pollution of open ditch, defective closets, insanitary urinals, burning refuse on private tip.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Disposal Works which were constructed in 1912 are situated in Romanby (a township of the Northallerton R.D.C.) and are maintained in good order, there being a resident caretaker on the Works.

Sewage in small quantities from the following sources is not capable of being drained by gravitation to the existing system of sewers and it is not therefore treated at the Disposal Works.

These are:—

1. Tan Yard.
2. Railway Cottages (near Tan Yard).
3. A residence known as Mount Pleasant.

The drainage from these premises is discharged to the Willow Beck, in the two latter cases the crude solids are removed by settlement before discharge to the stream.

The increasing flow of sewage has necessitated the raising of the levels of the storm overflow relief weirs on the trunk sewers, the work being carried out in 1936.

The discussions between the Urban and Rural District Councils relative to the treatment of sewage from the township of Romanby at the Urban Council's works—referred to in my previous report—were renewed but have not progressed further, and the proposal remains substantially as previously reported.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses are visited from time to time and are found to be in a satisfactory condition.

One additional retail bakehouse was registered during the year making a total of 8 bakehouses in the district. A change of occupation occurred in one case, and one other bakehouse was rebuilt and modernised.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 3 registered and 6 licensed Slaughter Houses in the area, no changes having taken place during the year.

Inspections are carried out as frequently as possible and no items calling for special comment have come under notice during the period under review. The construction and situation of these premises has been referred to in earlier reports and their condition remains satisfactory.

The carcase of an aged cow slaughtered by a local butcher for a Middlesbrough butcher was submitted for inspection before removal.

No cause for condemning the carcase was discovered and the Middlesbrough officials were notified of the circumstances before removal.

21 Slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year 1937.

Offensive Trades.

An offensive trade is carried on about one mile from the town in the open country. The premises have been used since 1917 for the purpose of manufacturing grease, manure, etc., from the carcases of animals.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One Council house treated after evacuation of tenant—treatment by sulphur fumigation followed by germicide spray and thorough cleaning—work done by Council workmen.

Visit of inspection by Sanitary Inspector.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Certain changes of occupation have taken place in registered premises and the details are now as follows :—

COWKEEPERS.

Wholesale traders	...	24	
Retail purveyors	...	5	
Retail and wholesale	...	2	37
Butter trade only	...	6	

Number of premises registered, 36.

One cowkeeper was warned as to the dirty condition of his cows and as a result of special attention to this case improvement was effected without recourse to legal action.

One licence under the Special Designations Order for retailing pasteurised milk was issued during the year.

Cleanliness in the production, handling and distribution of milk receives more and more attention each year, which is all to the good. The product is now undoubtedly much cleaner than in years gone by. The main thing now is to constantly call attention to the extreme value of high quality milk as an article of food, for children especially. In spite of lectures, clinics and articles in the press this is not fully understood by the working classes, The amount expended on milk in a house where there are children is quite inadequate and out of all proportion to the amount expended on foods of doubtful value, entertainments, etc.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff consists of one Medical Officer of Health (part time) and one Sanitary Inspector (whole time). The usual contributions are made to the salaries of the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector under the Public Health Acts. The area is so small it is not necessary to appoint assistant officers or specialised inspectors. The Inspector also acts as Surveyor and Water Inspector.

8. HOUSING.

Housing Inspection.

Details of Housing Inspections and action relating to the conditions are found set out below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1937:—**

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	75
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	75
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	13
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	5

2. **Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 5

3 **Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) by owners None

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... None

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) by owners None

(b) by Local Authorities in default of owners ... None

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... None

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... None

Housing Act 1936, part IV, Overcrowding.

(a)	i.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	22
	ii.	Number of families dwelling therein ...	23
	iii.	Number persons dwelling therein	125
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	None
(c)	i.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	ii.	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	51
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps to abate	None
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which Medical Officer may consider desirable to report	None

Housing Act, 1930.

Of the 44 houses built under this Act in 1935, 39 were occupied at the end of that year, the remainder have since been occupied.

The original programme (covering 4 years) submitted by the Council comprised 82 houses, and was supplemented during 1936 bringing the total to 89 houses.

Representations in respect of the whole of this programme were completed and have been submitted to the Council during the year.

At the close of the year the position is as follows :—

12 houses are under demolition orders.
20 houses have been demolished.
49 houses—undertakings have been accepted.
3 houses have been made fit.

—

84 houses—Total dealt with.
5 houses pending offers by owners.

—

89 houses—Total programme.

—

A supplementary list of unfit houses was presented to the Council in November and 49 houses were provisionally scheduled for detailed examination and report.

New Houses.

Particulars of House Building in Area during Post War Period

	Addison Scheme.		Housing Act, 1923.		Housing Act, 1930		Non-Subsidy	
	Cl.	P. Ent.	Cl.	P. Ent.	Cl.	P. Ent.	Cl.	P. Ent.
1921/36	—	5	28	70	44	—	—	227
1937	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
		5		98		44		244

Total—391

9. WATER SUPPLY.

As stated in previous reports the water supply is derived from water collected at the springs issuing from the hillside in Oakdale about eight miles from the town, after natural filtration through oolitic limestone; and also from water impounded in the upper reservoir which is derived from the upper reaches of a moorland beck. These are mixed as occasion requires. The former source of supply is clearer and softer of the two. The whole catchment area is inspected from time to time, and the water is analysed when necessary, both for organic and bacterial impurities There are no buildings or drains of any kind whatever on the catchment basin.

The sterilising plant supplied by Messrs Bell Bros., Ltd., of Manchester was put into operation on 3rd March 1937. Samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination in June, August and October and proved quite satisfactory.

The greater number of fire hydrants on the mains are of the "ball" type. These are to be displaced by screw hydrants on the ground that they rule out possible pollution when it is necessary to empty the mains for any purpose.

Complaints of inadequate pressure in the mains have been frequent during the year and tenders have just been received for works designed by Messrs Edward Sandeman & Partners, the Council's Consulting Engineers, to remedy this fault. The scheme also provides for increasing the local storage capacity from 250,000 to 500,000 gallons.

10. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The scheme referred to in my previous report has been put in hand, the works being commenced at the close of the year.

11. MORTUARY.

Arrangements have now been concluded for the joint use of a part of the Rutson Hospital premises by the Urban and Rural District Councils for mortuary purposes.

The Chairman, Members of the Council, the Clerk and the Surveyor, deserve my sincere thanks for all the support and help I have received at their hands.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH G. HANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.